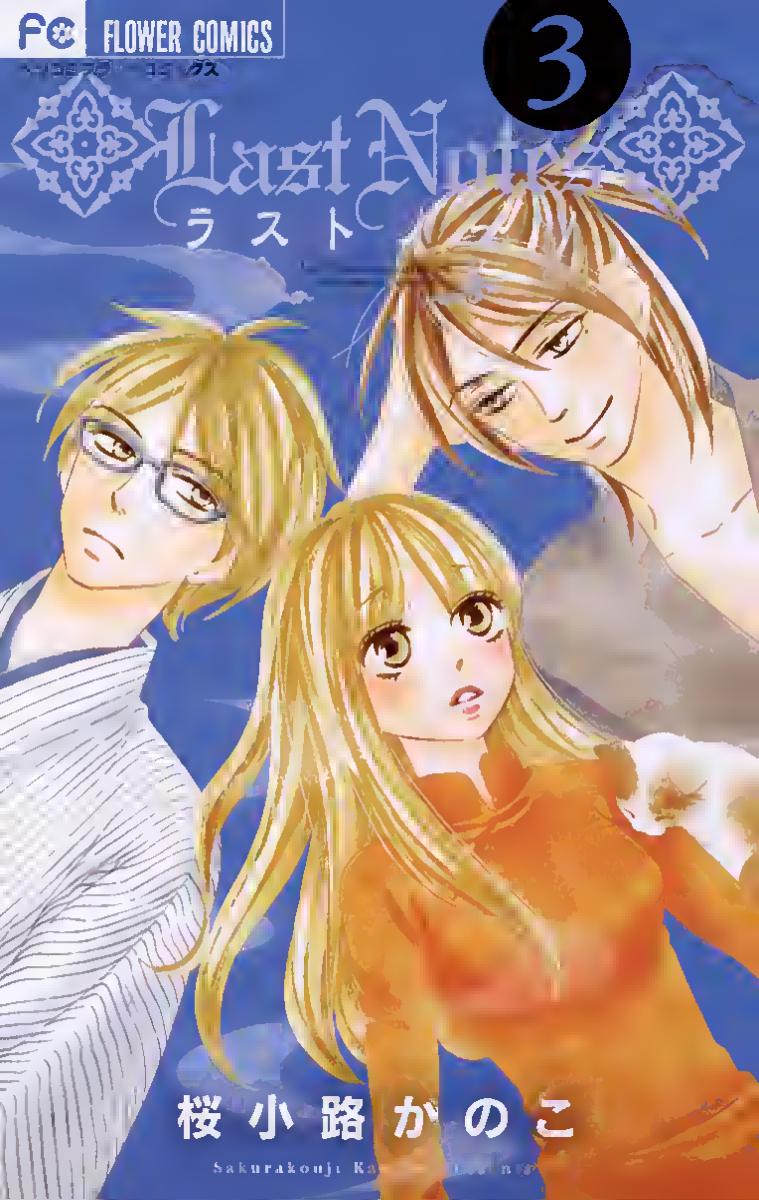
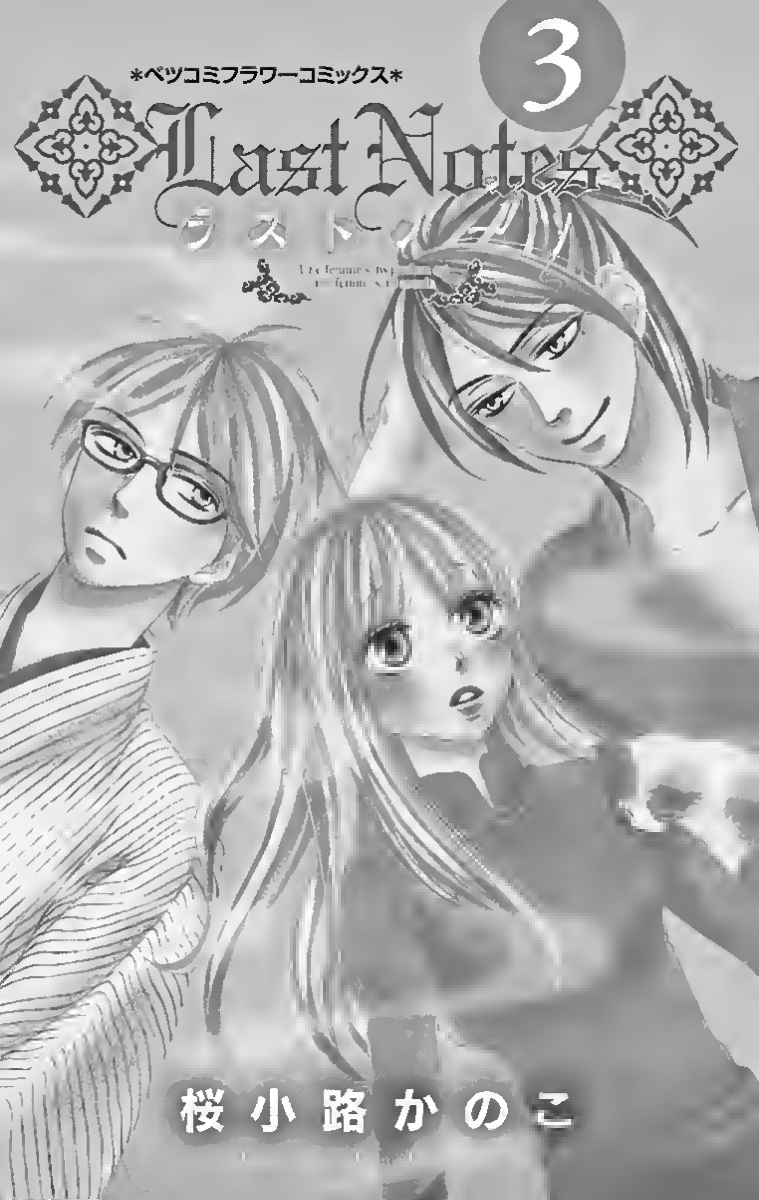

FLOWER COMICS
3
Last Notes
ラスト
桜小路かのこ

＊ベツコミフラワーコミックス＊

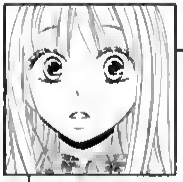
3

Last Notes

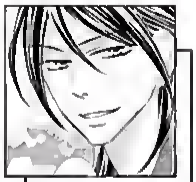
ラストノーツ



桜小路かのこ



五嶋えみる★高校1年生。祖父を亡くしアキ&ハルと、同居することに。



仁藤千彰(アキ)★留年して高校3年をもう一度やることに。仁藤香堂分店の店主。

仁藤春臣(ハル)★仁藤香堂分店のもう一人の店主。お金が大好きな大学1年生。

STORY

■反魂香――焚くと、その煙の中に会いたい死者が浮かび上がるという不思議な香木を取り扱うお店・仁藤香堂分店。仕入れ担当の五嶋が亡くなり、反魂香の入手ルートを探していたアキとハルは、五嶋の孫・えみると暮らし始める。

■生まれ育った「村」と決別し、アキと同じ高校に通うことを決めたえみる。やさしいだけでなく、いろんな表情を持つアキを次第に意識し始める。そんな中、仁藤香堂分店に美紘という女性が現れる。アキと親しそうなその女性を見て、アキの元カノではないかと不安になるえみる。

■そんなある日、アキと同じ養護施設で育ったことを美紘の口から聞かされたえみる。2人の間に「特別」な絆があることを知り、ショックを受けるが、それは自分が「アキに恋をしている」からだと気づく。辛くなることはわかっているのに、アキへの想いを止められないえみるだけど…？

ラストノーツ3

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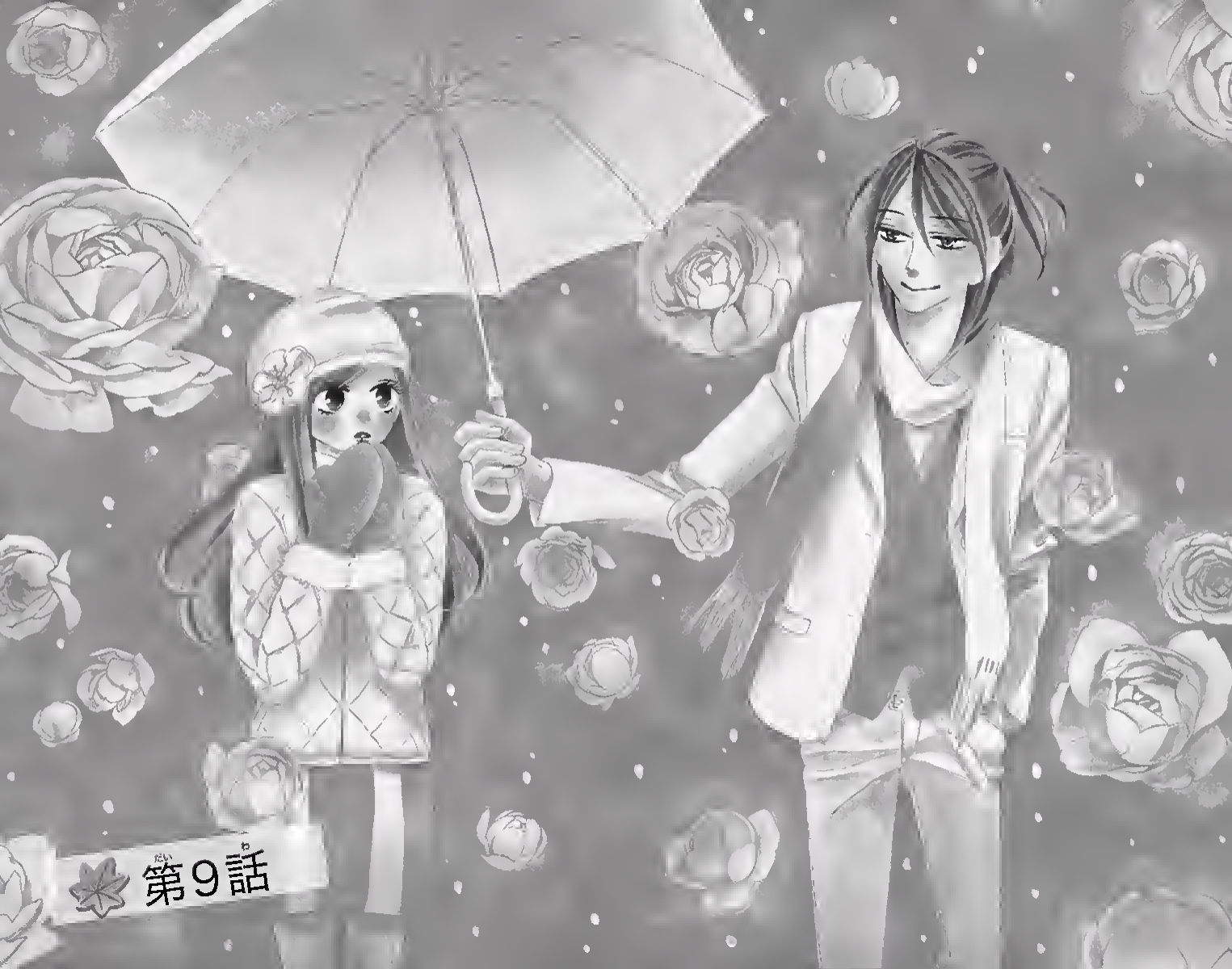
IT SEEMS... I'VE FALLEN
IN LOVE WITH AKI
IT UNFOLDS
NOW! A FULL
COLOR COVER!
THESE FEELINGS CANNOT BE STOPPED ANYMORE!
LAST NOTES
SAKURAKOUJI KANOKO


第9話

SAKURAKOUJI KANOKO

Sakurakouji Kanoko Presents

ラストノーツ LAST NOTES

世にも香しき恋物語

えみるの心にしんしんと降り積もる、

AN AROMATIC LOVE STORY THAT SPREADS ACROSS THE WORLD

FALLING INTO A PILE ON EMIRU CHAN'S HEART

今まで知らなかった初めての気持ち、

A FEELING THAT HAS NEVER BEEN EXPERIENCED BEFORE

それは触れれば壊れてしまいそうに切なくて

LIKE SAD FEELINGS THAT CAN BE EASILY TRIGGERED

でももう消してしまうことはできなくて、

BUT CAN NO LONGER DISAPPEAR

連載第9回 巻頭カラー

CHAPTER 9'S FULL-COLOR COVER

●FC「ラストノーツ」1大ヒット御礼発売中です!! 詳しくは495へ!!

THE NITOUKOUDOU BRANCH STORE SELLS "ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE" THAT SUMMONS DECEASED PEOPLE WHEN LIT. HERE LIVE THE SHOPKEEPERS AKI AND HARU AND THE HOMELESS GIRL EMIRU-CHAN.
EMIRU-CHAN, WHO BEGAN TO BE MORE AWARE OF AKI, HEARD THAT HE GREW UP IN AN ORPHANAGE FROM MIHIRO. THE REASON WHY AKI IS KIND TO HER IS BECAUSE THEY SHARED A SIMILAR EXPERIENCE. AFTER KNOWING THIS, EMIRU-CHAN SOMEHOW FELT SAD. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE BELIEVES THAT AKI'S KINDNESS TOWARDS MIHIRO IS DIFFERENT.
EMIRU-CHAN CRIED WHEN SHE FOUND OUT THE PERSON WHO AKI LIKES IS MIHIRO. SHE ALSO REALIZED THE REASON SHE WAS BEHAVING LIKE THIS WAS BECAUSE SHE HAD COME TO LIKE AKI...?!

RECAP

CHARACTERS

MIHIRO
AKI'S OLD FRIEND BROUGHT UP AT AN ORPHANAGE ALONG WITH AKI.

NITOU HAJIOMI "HAJI"
FIRST YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENT. THE OTHER SHOPKEEPER OF NITOUKOUDOU BRANCH STORE. LOVES MONEY.

NITOU CHIAKI "AKI"
THIRD YEAR HIGH SCHOOLER (DROPPED) NITOUKOUDOU BRANCH STORE'S SHOPKEEPER. HAS A SENSITIVE NOSE.

SOSHIMA EMIRU
FIRST YEAR HIGH SCHOOLER. A BEAUTY, WHO LIVES WITH AKI AND HARU. HOMELESS.

SFX: OPENS DOOR
ガラッ
EMIRU-CHAN!
I CAN GO TO SCHOOL BY MYSELF ALREADY!
BE-CAUSE
EH?
...
LATELY,
EMIRU-CHAN'S BEEN AVOIDING ME...
DID I DO SOME-THING?
WHAT'S WRONG?

He still hasn't realized...
NO, IT'S NOTHING
IS IT BECAUSE I SNIFFED HER TOO MUCH?
WHAT?
YOU
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
Pant
Pant
Pant

Since I realized that my feelings for Aki were love,
I've been feeling like I'm swimming but my feet won't move
It's been like this, but yesterday,
when I realized he was sleeping beside me,
again

I can still feel his warmth...
Because he doesn't think of me that way...
That's why he acts like this...
The touch of his hand...
I can't fall asleep
KYAA!
EH?
UM
AKI...!
SORRY, I WAS TOO SLEEPY ...
I CAN'T FACE HIM TODAY EITHER
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
HE MUST THINK THAT I'M REALLY WEIRD...

LISTEN
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU?
IT WAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME, RIGHT?
SUDDENLY TELLING ME SUCH AN UNBELIEVABLE SECRET
I'm living with Aki
Huh?!
LIKE WE'RE STILL GOOD FRIENDS
LISTENING TO YOU TALK ABOUT BORING LITTLE THINGS ABOUT YOU AND YOUR CRUSH!
IT'S NOT 'LIKE FRIENDS,' WE REALLY ARE FRIENDS, NANA!
AND THIS ISN'T SOME BORING LITTLE THING!
ARGH! DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!!
I TOLD YOU IT'S BETTER TO CONFESS SOON,
BECAUSE IT SEEMS AKI-SENPAI LIKES YOU, TOO
JUST STEAL HIM AWAY
FROM THAT MIHIRO WOMAN!

The two of them grew up in the same orphanage
There's no space for me to butt in
I CAN'T DO IT...
...THAT KIND OF THING
THEN THIS IS THE END OF THE TROUBLESOME LOVE CONSULTATION!
ALL RIGHT!
where I can be closer to Aki than Mihiro-san
but I still don't want to let go of the place
Actually, I've been thinking it's about time I leave that house
A NEWBIE LIKE ME
I WOULD DEFINITELY DROWN IF I JUMPED INTO THE TORRENT OF LOVE...
IF YOU DROWN, LET'S HANG OUT TOGETHER AGAIN
In the end, I behaved like that
I'm such an idiot...

Putting love aside,
I've been avoiding contact with the others up until now
so much that I can't even remember how to breathe
HEY,

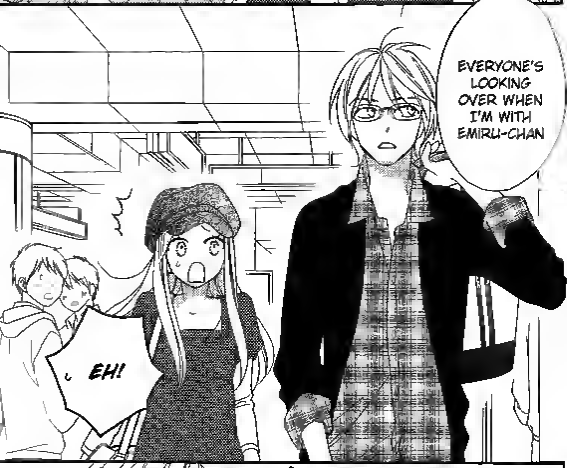
HAVE YOU PREPARED YOUR THINGS FOR TOMORROW?
PREPARE WHAT?
WE'RE ONLY STAYING FOR A NIGHT SO I'LL JUST PUT A CLEAN PAIR OF UNDERWEAR IN MY POCKET
IS A BANANA CONSIDERED A SNACK?
NEVER MIND.
AND WE DON'T NEED SNACKS!
Tomorrow I'll be going back to the village I grew up in
Because the snow melted,
I can finally clean up the remains of my collapsed house
WE'RE NOT GOING THERE TO JUST CLEAN UP THE PLACE
OUR AIM IS THAT, AKI
I KNOW
WE'RE GOING TO SEARCH FOR CLUES AS TO WHETHER OR NOT JII-SAN LEFT ANYTHING RELATED TO THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE
THAT'S WHY I'M ALSO BRINGING OTHER CLOTHES ON TOP OF UNDERWEAR
Because you sweat easily

It's like a vacation...
I'm really happy...
We're going to spend more time together than usual
My heart won't stop racing
PHONE...
IT'S MIHIRO
WHAT?
YES?
...EH?
YES, THAT'S ME
...AH?
MIHIRO FAINTED?!

I GOT IT, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
WHY...
I'M GOING
BUT IT'S ALREADY SO LATE..
WH-WHAT HAP-PENED..?
MIHIRO'S BOYFRIEND CALLED
MIHIRO'S BEEN HOS-PITALIZED
SORRY
I CAN'T GO TO-MORROW
I'M REALLY SORRY!
Step
Step
Open
BAM!

AH,
YES
ONLY THE TWO OF US WILL BE GOING TO-MORROW
THAT MEANS
EH
...

Who's that?
celeb-rity?


EVERYONE'S LOOKING OVER WHEN I'M WITH EMIRU-CHAN
EH!

TO-
TODAY'S CLOTHES ...
I thought they wouldn't look that strange
I WORE THEM BE-CAUSE HARU BOUGHT THEM FOR ME
I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY
Such low self-confi-dence

OUTBOUND SHINKANSEN

IT MAKES ME FEEL GOOD
NI-
TOU-
KUN!
♡
ARE YOU HAPPY? ARE YOU HAPPY?
VERY HAPPY
Ehehe
I CAME
SUZUKI?
WHY ARE YOU HERE...
I SAW THAT YOU BOUGHT TICKETS FOR THE SHINKANSEN,
SO I WANTED TO GIVE YOU A SURPRISE SEND-OFF
AH,
THIS PERSON IS MY GIRL-FRIEND
When did he get one?!

WHO'S THIS GIRL?!
So cute~
YOU'RE SO MEAN!
YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING ON A TRIP WITH YOUR BROTHER!
BUT NITOU-KUN, YOU'RE TREATING ME SO COLDLY...
ISN'T THIS THE FIRST WEEKEND AFTER WE STARTED
CAN'T YOU TAKE ME SOMEWHERE TO HAVE FUN?
Is- Is that so
CALM
I'M MEETING UP WITH HIM LATER
THIS GIRL IS AKI'S GIRLFRIEND (LYING)
AND HERE ALL I THINK ABOUT IS NITOU-KUN~

I SUPPOSE
SORRY
LET'S GO TO SOMEWHERE SUZUKI LIKES WHEN I'M BACK
YAY~!
YOU HAVE TO DRIVE, OKAY?
NITOU-KUN OWNS A PORSCHE, RIGHT?
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE LEAVE
Have a safe trip

IT-
IT'S FINE...
IT'S GOOD THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND DIDN'T GET MAD
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT
SORRY
FOR MAKING YOU LISTEN TO THAT

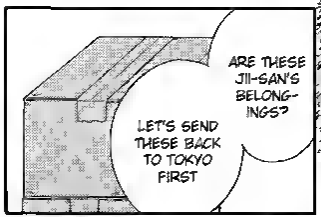
While for me,
I'm so easily swayed by my feelings...
YOU COULD STAY CALM IN FRONT OF THE PERSON YOU LIKE...
...YOU'RE AMAZING, HARU
I'VE BEEN LIKE THIS ALL ALONG
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH NUMBERS
ALL THE TIME
...UM
I HEARD HARU CHANGES GIRLFRIENDS ALL THE TIME
AS THE NUMBER GOES UP
YOU'D EVENTUALLY BECOME A NATURAL AT IT, RIGHT...

IS THAT SO...
LOVE DIFFERS FROM PERSON TO PERSON
EVEN IF THERE'S AN IDEAL TYPE OF PERSON YOU WANT TO BECOME,
IT'S STILL IMPOSSIBLE TO REMAIN LIKE THAT FOREVER
I see
BUT FOR ME, I JUST FOLLOW MY HEART WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS LIKE THIS
I've finally
come to an under-standing

I'm simply
enslaved
by love.
And while
feeling
confused,
I will continue to
be pulled along
by a heart I
cannot control.

桜小路かのこ

3分で行ける最寄りのスーパーが閉店してしまい、この寒い時期に10分かけて別のスーパーに歩いて行く羽目になりました。（この程度で）辛いです。



おたよりは
〒101-1001
小学館 ヘッコミ編集部
桜小路かのこ先生

WHAT ABOUT THOSE?
THEY'RE MINE
PLEASE THROW EVERYTHING AWAY
...IS THAT REALLY OKAY?
MM
AH, EXCEPT THIS
THIS COTTON ROBE IS VERY WARM...
THROW IT AWAY

I DON'T KNOW THE CODE...
IT'S NOT JII-CHAN'S BIRTHDAY
YOU CAN'T OPEN IT?
WHAT ABOUT THAT SAFE?
EH?
HOW ABOUT EMIRU-CHAN'S BIRTHDAY?
AH
IT OPENED!
BANK BOOK AND STAMP
THIS... IS THE DEED FOR THE LAND
AH
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING ELSE INSIDE

...ANTI-SPIRIT IN-CENSE!
THERE ARE ONLY TWO TO THREE STICKS LEFT, THOUGH...
AND THE OTHERS?
WHERE ARE THE NOTES THAT HAVE THE ORIGIN OR MANU-FACTURE METHOD WRITTEN?!
ARE THERE NONE...?

This is
the last anti-spirit incense...?
THERE ARE ONLY THESE?
JII-SAN...!

YOU'RE THE TWO CUSTOMERS WHO BOOKED A ROOM, RIGHT?
FAMILY HOTEL
PLEASE COME IN
OH MY, WHAT DO WE DO?
TODAY'S ROOMS ARE ALL FULL...
EMIRU-CHAN, I'LL GO CHECK OTHER HOTELS.
...RATHER THAN SAYING TWO PEOPLE.
I THOUGHT I SAID I WANTED TWO ROOMS.
EH!
THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE YOU CAN STAY AROUND HERE...
HARU

I DON'T MIND
ISN'T IT JUST LIKE LIVING TOGETHER IN THE HOUSE IN TOKYO?
EVEN SO...
No this is different...
You have to turn around when I change okay?
Oh my are you here on vacation with your sister or friend? It's not like that!
It frustrates me that
she has no sense of danger at all...
A negative response that closes the conversation

If Aki was here,
she wouldn't have been able to show such an expression...
HARU
MM?
IT'S MY OWN PROBLEM,
BUT YOU HELPED ME A LOT SO I'M REALLY GRATEFUL
AH, NO WORRIES
IN THE END YOU BROUGHT THAT ROBE ALONG
ONLY THIS~
YOU THREW AWAY EVERYTHING ELSE
IS IT REALLY OKAY?

MOST OF THE THINGS WERE DRENCHED BY THE SNOW
THEY COULDN'T HAVE BEEN USED AGAIN ANYWAY
I'LL JUST GET NEW ONES
THAT VILLAGE
AND THE PAST
YOU REALLY LET GO OF THEM
UNLIKE AKI.
EMIRU-CHAN'S REALLY STRONG-WILLED,
YOU'RE RATHER OPTIMISTIC
I HEARD THAT AKI IS ADOPTED
MIHIRO TOLD YOU, RIGHT?
Well that's fine.

AKI AND MIHIRO-SAN GREW UP IN THE SAME ORPHANAGE, RIGHT?
MM
MY PARENTS SAID THEY WANTED TO ADOPT A CHILD
AND BROUGHT ME ALONG AS WELL
I MET AKI FOR THE FIRST TIME THERE
HE WAS SMILING
THAT GUY COULD STILL SMILE
BUT IT WAS FULL OF FLAWS,
LIKE HE WASN'T ABANDONED BY HIS PARENTS
THOUGH IT SEEMS I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO NOTICED IT

DIDN'T AKI GET MAD AT THOSE PEOPLE WHO IGNORED EMIRU-CHAN?
AND HE BROUGHT BACK HOME-LESS KITTENS,
UNDERNEATH THAT SMILE OF HIS
IS DARKNESS THAT CANNOT BE WIPED AWAY

I
AM NOT AS STRONG AS YOU THINK I AM
I ALSO HAVE A DARK SIDE,
HE CANNOT LET GO OF HIS PAST LIKE EMIRU-CHAN
BECAUSE
I'M TOO SCARED TO FACE IT
I CAN ONLY TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT...
SFX CLENCHES

BUT AKI HAS BEEN TRYING HIS HARDEST TO CONTROL HIS DARK SIDE TO LIVE ON
AKI IS STRONGER THAN ME

HAVEN'T YOU COME TO UNDERSTAND AKI MORE THAN ME?
EH
YOU'VE REALLY BEEN WATCHING AKI CLOSELY
NO WAY, THAT'S NOT TRUE...
HOW CAN THAT BE...
HOW-
AH,
AKI SENT A MESSAGE
MIHIRO'S ALL RIGHT, THAT'S GREAT
AKI SAID
AS AN APOLOGY FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO COME
HE'LL PREPARE DINNER AND WAIT FOR US TOMORROW NIGHT
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT

AS AN APO-LOGY,
THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA...
HAS AKI MADE DINNER BE-FORE...

AN UNEXPECTED... KISS!!
TO BE CONTINUED
THE NEXT CHAPTER UNFOLDS SOON!

Last Notes - Chapter 9

by Sakurakouji Kanoko

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Please support the author by buying the manga when it's available in your region

http://shoujosense.com/

ラストノーツ

LAST NOTES

CHAPTER 10

車通行止め
行下高 2.3
ハルからの突然のキス――
エミルの気持ちは行方へ…？
A SUDDEN KISS FROM HARU-EMIRU-CHAN WHO IS STILL HIDING HER LOVE TOWARDS AKI IN HER HEART. WHAT DOES SHE THINK?

FC「ラストノーツ」
最新第2巻
しゅしょ
3月2日(水)ころ発売！
詳しくは143Pへ♥

SAKURAKOUJI KANOKO

桜小路かのこ

桜小路先生が特別にかきおろしたオリジナルスタンプ画像が
もらえる【H i 下3フェア】も好評です！
詳しくはカページをCHECK→→→

EH
MIHIRO-SAN HAS A BABY?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
I FELT PAIN IN MY STOMACH SO I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL.
THE RESULT CAME OUT WITH ME BEING PREGNANT!
It scared me.
NO-
NOTHING IS WRONG, RIGHT...?
MM... I'M FINE NOW.

RECAP

THE MITOUKUNDOU BRANCH STORE SELLS "ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE" THAT WILL SUMMON DECEASED PEOPLE WHEN LIT. AT THE STORE LIVES THE SHOPKEEPERS AKI AND HARU AND THE HOMELESS GIRL - EMIRU-CHAN.
ALTHOUGH EMIRU-CHAN REALIZED HER LOVE FOR AKI, SHE HAD HER HEART BROKEN WHEN SHE FOUND OUT AKI LIKES MIHIRO. WITH THAT STILL ON HER MIND, SHE WENT BACK TO HER COLLAPSED HOUSE WITH HARU TO SEARCH FOR CLUES ABOUT THE "ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE", BUT THERE WAS ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF IT THERE...
THAT NIGHT, IN A ROOM WITH JUST THE TWO OF THEM, EMIRU-CHAN TALKED ABOUT HOW AKI IS PITIFUL. THEN SUDDENLY SHE WAS KISSED BY HARU?!

CHARACTERS

MIHIRO
AKI'S OLD FRIEND. BROUGHT UP AT AN ORPHANAGE.

MITOU HARUOMI "HARU"
UNIVERSITY FIRST YEAR. THE OTHER SHOPKEEPER OF MITOU-KUNDOU BRANCH STORE. LOVES MONEY

MITOU CHIAKI "AKI"
HIGH SCHOOL THIRD YEAR (REPEAT). MITOU-KUNDOU BRANCH STORE'S SHOPKEEPER. HAS A SENSITIVE NOSE

OSHIMA EMIRU
HIGH SCHOOL FIRST YEAR. A BEAUTY WHO LIVES WITH AKI AND HARU HOMELESS.

AND ABOUT THE WEDDING CEREMONY
EH...
AFTER BEING DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL, MY BOYFRIEND AND I WENT TO REGISTER FOR MARRIAGE.
He's already my husband.
AND THEN
WE DECIDED TO GET MARRIED
AH.
WE'RE ONLY GOING TO HAVE A SMALL PARTY WITH FRIENDS AT A RESTAURANT MY FRIEND OPENED
EMIRU-CHAN AND AKI SHOULD COME TOO!
TH-THAT'S RIGHT
WE PLAN TO HAVE IT BEFORE MY STOMACH GETS ANY BIGGER
CONGRATULATIONS
IF I CAN
YOU'VE SAID IT TOO EARLY, EMIRU-CHAN MIGHT NOT GO
GLASSES GUY, YOU CAN COME TOO IF YOU WANT.
HA?
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

HARU SHOULD ALSO GO
THE MORE PEOPLE THE BETTER
WHAT DO YOU SAY, EMIRU-CHAN?
AH...
YES
IF I HAVE TIME
Haru-san...
...that night

ラストノーツ
...
I froze for a minute
I have no idea what happened.
UM...
GOOD
GOOD NIGHT...
and went to sleep.
My mind was blank.

On the way back on the shinkansen, Haru-san acted like usual...
And Haru-san has a girlfriend!
Nothing special happened.
Yup, nothing happened!
THEN I'LL SEND MIHIRO OFF TO THE STATION
I'LL PREPARE DINNER
EMIRU-CHAN, COME HELP
NO, WE STILL HAVE—
—THE SOY SAUCE IS ALL OUT.
I'LL GO BUY SOY SAUCE!
DASH

Nothing happened.
That's only what I wish.
SIGH...
EMIRU-CHAN
AH
Aki-san
DID YOU GO TO THE SUPER-MARKET?
I'LL CARRY IT.

Even though Mihiro-san
can never be Aki-san's girlfriend anymore
You must be shocked by Mihiro's news.
Aki-san is laughing.
he's really happy
The person he likes found happiness..
WHAT?
AH, NOTHING
LIM... I
I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHAT PRESENT SHOULD I GET FOR MIHIRO-SAN
WHAT DOES MIHIRO-SAN LIKE...?
AH... GOOD IDEA!
LET'S GO BUY IT TOGETHER!
EH!

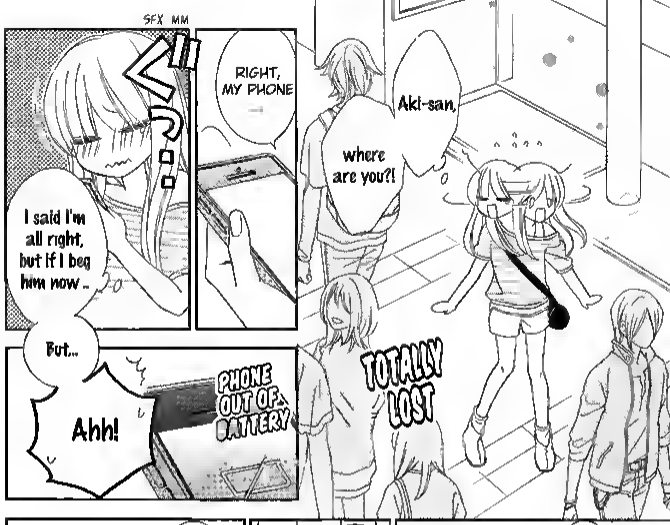
HOW ABOUT NEXT WEEKEND?
WE CAN ALSO GET CLOTHES TO WEAR TO THE PARTY.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A WEDDING, IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S A CASUAL ONE.
Co-
going out with Aki-san...
I'm really happy.
What do I do..
Just the two of us.
WE'RE BACK.
HARU, ARE YOU FREE NEXT WEEKEND?
I WAS DISCUSSING WITH EMIRU-CHAN JUST NOW
TO GO BUY MIHIRO'S WEDDING PRESENT
EH

Haru-san is going too?
IS THAT SO?
I'LL GO THEN
DID YOU THINK I WOULD SAY THAT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO PICK FOR HER?
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE BILL, YOU TWO GO AND BUY IT
AH... REALLY?
I GET IT.
Relieved
AH, HERE, SOY SAUCE.
OH
EVEN THOUGH I SAID WE STILL HAVE SOME.
THANKS ANYWAY
Shoujo Sense

IS TODAY SOME KIND OF HOLIDAY OR SOMETHING?
LET'S GO!
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE...
OF COURSE THERE'D BE LOTS OF PEOPLE ON A DAY OFF.

Blush
SFX PWIP
AH
SO-
SORRY
EVEN WITHOUT HOLDING HANDS
BUT
I'M ALL RIGHT.
I SEE.
THEN YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW CLOSELY.

...I can't do it.
Because I like Aki-san
I can only behave strangely around him
Aki-san will be troubled by my feelings...
I still don't want him to realize it yet.
But until then..
what do I do..?
CONFUSED
EH
WHERE'S AKI-SAN?!


SFX MM
I said I'm all right, but if I beg hmm now..
RIGHT, MY PHONE
But...
Ahh!
PHONE OUT OF BATTERY
Aki-san, where are you?!
TOTALLY LOST

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BEING A STAR?
THIS IS MY BUSINESS CARD
OR HAVE YOU ALREADY JOINED ANOTHER AGENCY?
CAN I TROUBLE YOU FOR A MINUTE?
UM.. I
IT'LL BE OKAY, LET'S GO!
YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE
ARE YOU ALONE?
EH
WANT TO PLAY TOGETHER?

HEY, OLD MAN
LET'S FIND A PLACE AND CHAT WHILE WE HAVE TEA.
THIS LADY IS COMING WITH US
WHAT?!
PANIC PANIC PANIC
MOVE ASIDE, BRATS!
Ah,
Aki-san!
That's great..
Eh..
He isn't coming over.
He should have noticed me already
Why?
Aki-san...

AKI-SAN
SAVE ME...
SFX HUGS

Y-YOU TOO!
THIS IS WHAT I DO...
LET'S GO
EMIRU-CHAN.
AH...
WHY YOU LITTLE ...
I-
I'M SORRY

SORRY
I DID SOMETHING MEAN...
SORRY TO HAVE SCARED YOU.
EH...
BECAUSE EMIRU-CHAN SAID SHE DIDN'T WANT TO HOLD HANDS WITH ME
SO I WANTED YOU TO BE THE ONE WHO INITIATES IT
THAT'S WHAT I PLANNED
AND I ALSO DELIBERATELY BROUGHT YOU TO SOMEWHERE CROWDED
BECAUSE

THEN I WOULD HAVE
A REASON TO HOLD HANDS WITH YOU
SORRY.
Aki-san...
What does he mean...

I HEARD FROM HARU
RIGHT
Nervous
ABOUT THE DAY YOU TWO WENT BACK TO EMIRU-CHAN'S OLD HOUSE
HE SAID PEOPLE PASSING BY WERE ALL STARING AT EMIRU-CHAN
EVEN JUST THEN YOU WERE GETTING ATTENTION RIGHT AWAY.
Relieved...
I thought
he found out about the kiss...
BY THE WAY,

DID YOU KNOW?
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE HAD A GIRLFRIEND
AFTER THAT, I HEARD HARU
BROKE UP WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND
IS
IS THAT SO...
They broke up...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND HARU?
EMIRU-CHAN,

BECAUSE EVER SINCE YOU TWO CAME BACK FROM THE VILLAGE,
YOU TWO HAVE BEEN ACTING STRANGE.
WHY...
WH-
WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I WASN'T AROUND?
IT'S STRANGE BECAUSE, UM,
WE DIDN'T FIND MANY CLUES ABOUT THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE
SO I THINK THAT'S WHY HARU-SAN IS A LITTLE DEPRESSED.
NO- NOTHING
REALLY.
AT ALL.

I feel like if I do,

I don't want to ask.

Why did Haru-san do something like that?

WAH
MIHIRO-SAN'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL...!
EMIRU-CHAN'S CUTE TOO~
THANK YOU FOR COMING TO MY WEDDING CEREMONY!
The groom is crying nonstop...
He looks like a good man.
a lot of her friends came.
Mihiro-san looks really happy.
Look over here!
Mihiro
Although Mihiro-san's family isn't here,

桜小路かのこ

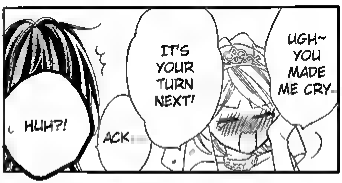
ごはん作りにハマってます。毎日のように食べても飽きません。

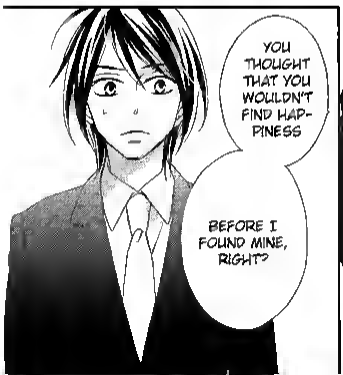
おたより係
〒101-8001
小学館ベツコミ編集部
桜小路かのこ宛

I GAVE MIHIRO THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE.
RIGHT NOW SHE'S SUMMONING HER DECEASED PARENTS IN THIS ROOM
SO THAT THEY'LL SEE HOW HAPPY SHE IS NOW WITH HER HUSBAND
WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING HERE?
MM
ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SOMEWHERE I CAN'T HEAR THE CHATTER FROM HER FEMALE COLLEAGUES
WHAT A TOUCHING MEETING
I'm not interested.
OH
OPEN

...DID YOU SEE THEM?
YUP.
WE SAW THEM
AKI,
REAL-LY?
THAT'S GOOD.
REALLY... I DIDN'T THINK I COULD REALLY SEE THEM
MY PARENTS ARE RELIEVED TOO.

THANK YOU.


UGH~ YOU MADE ME CRY.
IT'S YOUR TURN NEXT!
ACK
HUH?!


YOU THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULDN'T FIND HAPPINESS BEFORE I FOUND MINE, RIGHT?

MM

I KNOW
NITOU'S PARENTS PLANNED TO ADOPT A GIRL FROM THE ORPHANAGE
BUT YOU BECAME THEIR ADOPTED SON INSTEAD OF ME
YOU FELT GUILTY
BUT I DON'T HATE YOU
BECAUSE I WANT TO BECOME HAPPY WITH MY OWN STRENGTH.
TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT YOU WERE A BURDEN
AND I STAYED AWAY FROM YOU FOR A WHILE
MIHIRO
She said I was a burden
BUT I'M REALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU NOW!

I'll head back to the venue first?
THE BURDEN HAS BEEN REMOVED NOW,
SO NEXT IS AKI'S TURN.
YOU HAVE ONE, RIGHT?
A GIRL WHO IS IMPORTANT TO YOU
WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...?
ALL RIGHT
I'M TELLING YOU TO GO FIX THE MIS-UNDER-STANDING YOURSELF.
IT SEEMS SHE HAS SOME MIS-UNDER-STANDINGS
SHE THINKS AKI LIKES ME
EH
HEY!

AKI!
YOU HAVE TO FIND YOUR HAPPINESS TOO!
I WILL!

Leans
Sigh
I have to find a place to rest alone..
Mihiro-san's friends are really energetic
OPEN
Where did Aki-san and the others go..?
WAIT A MINUTE
AH

GOOD TIMING
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK EMIRU-CHAN.
EH...?
I-
I'M SORRY
IT'S RUDE TO FLEE AS SOON AS YOU SEE SOME-ONE'S FACE
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ME KISSING YOU?

IT WAS MY FIRST TIME
HAVING THAT HAPPEN TO ME
BEING IGNORED AFTER KISSING SOMEONE
HARU, YOU'RE THE ONE
WHO IS ACTING LIKE USUAL
AND DID NOTHING AFTER-WARDS...
YOU MEAN IT'S BETTER IF I DID SOMETHING MORE AFTER THAT?
NO ..
AND...
NO,
I DIDN'T MEAN TO IGNORE
Shoujo Sense

Aki-san...!
WHAT
KISS
TO BE CONTINUED
THE SECRET KEPT AWAY FROM AKI...
NEXT CHAPTER, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE THREE OF THEM...?!

Last Notes - Chapter 10

by Sakurakouji Kaneko

Scanner: Laurhanna
Translator: Siuliz
Proofreader: Sora
Cleaner: Tachan
Typesetter: hemony
Qeen: hemony

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桜小路かのこ
Sakurakouji Kanoko

最新FC「ラストノーツ」2
大好評発売中!!!
桜小路先生が特別にかき下ろした
オリジナルスタンプ画像がもらえる
「HIT3フェア」も開催中!
詳しくは44ページ参照

There are times when I really want to get a hold of my real self.

Rapid development! A love triangle.

急加速！ラブ・トライアングル

Chapter 11

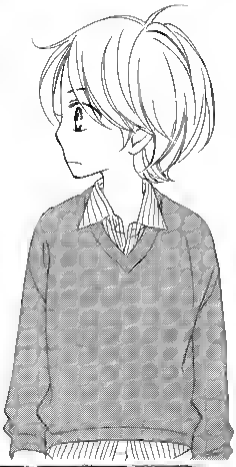
ラストノーツ

Une fois je suis sans parfum est de loin une des autres

"My name's Aki."

"Um, just then, they called you Haru, right?"

The day we first met.



ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE

IT'S A MYSTERIOUS FRAGRANT WIND THAT CAN SUMMON THE DECEASED ONCE LIT

THE NITOUKYOUDOU BRANCH STORE SELLS "ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE" THAT SUMMONS DECEASED PEOPLE WHEN LIT. AT THE STORE IS WHERE THE SHOPKEEPERS, AKI AND HARU AND THE HOMELESS GIRL, EMIRU-CHAN LIVE. EMIRU-CHAN WHO BEGAN TO BECOME AWARE OF AKI, THOUGHT THAT HE LIKES MIHIRO WHO GREW UP IN THE SAME ORPHANAGE AS HIM. AT THE SAME TIME EMIRU-CHAN BECAME CONFUSED AFTER HARU KISSED HER AND STARTED TO STAY AWAY FROM HIM. JUST WHEN HER DISTANCE WITH AKI SHORTENS, SHE HAS TO KEEP A SECRET OF WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN HARU AND HERSELF AT MIHIRO'S WEDDING CEREMONY. JUST WHEN HARU QUESTIONS EMIRU-CHAN WHAT HER REPLY TO HIS KISS IS, AKI OVERHEARS THEM.

RECAP

NITOU CHIAKI "AKI"
SHOPKEEPER OF NITOU-KYOUDOU BRANCH STORE. HAS A SMOKING HOBBY.

NITOU HARUOMI "HARU"
THE OTHER SHOPKEEPER OF NITOUKYOUDOU BRANCH STORE. LOVES MONEY.

OSHIMA EMIRU
A BEAUTY WHO LIVES TOGETHER WITH AKI AND HARU.

Characters

"There's a really nice smell on you, Haru."
I have no idea what Haru likes about me.
That's incense stick.
From that day on,
Haru became the most important person to me.
MUM, I THINK HE'S NOT BAD
EH
DIDN'T WE DECIDE ON GETTING A GIRL
NO, THIS KID IS GOOD

I LIKE STRAW-BERRY.
WAIT!
YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO AKI'S OPINION.
I LIKE CHOCOLATE!
AH, AKI!
You're already eating
HERE ARE SNACKS.
CHOCOLATE AND STRAW-BERRY. WHICH ONE DO YOU TWO LIKE?
Cream
I BOUGHT NEW CLOTHES
THE BLUE ONE IS FOR AKI
AKI,
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO POLITE AT HOME
BOTH YOU AND HARU ARE CHILDREN OF OUR HOUSE-HOLD!
I WASN'T BEING POLITE
HARU, DON'T BE LIKE THAT
EH,
I THINK THAT ONE'S NICE
THEN LET'S EXCHANGE

WHAT CAN I SAY
I did a lot of things to repay him
But most of the times I'm just acting spoiled towards the reliable Haru
IN EXCHANGE, HARU HELP ME WITH MY HOME-WORK
Okay?
5
We both thought our relationship was pretty good
AKI GOT OFF SCHOOL EARLY AGAIN TODAY
BECAUSE HE WASN'T FEELING WELL
SEEMS LIKE THAT CHILD'S NOSE IS OVER SENSI-TIVE
HE'LL FAINT OVER BAD SMELLS
SMELL?
IS IT BECAUSE HE'S WEAK?
DID HIS REAL MOTHER ABANDON HIM BECAUSE OF HIS WEAK BODY ?
MAYBE... BUT DIDN'T WE TAKE HIM FOR A BODY CHECK EARLIER ON?
HE WASN'T SICK OR SOMETHING

ISN'T THAT A GIFT FOR OUR FAMILY?
I.
CAN HELP?
LET'S DISCUSS THIS WITH THE JII-SAN FROM GOSHIMA FAMILY NEXT TIME
JII-SAN ?
BECAUSE OUR FAMILY SELLS INCENSE STICKS
SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH FRAGRANT WOOD

I found something I could be useful for,

together with parents who didn't allow me to feel bad about myself.

In the home that Haru gave me.

My fate
had changed from the day I met Haru
HARU I SPOKE WITH MORI-SAN FROM CLASS 3 TODAY
SHE'S REALLY CUTE
OH, NOT BAD
WHAT? HARU ALSO THINKS SHE'S ALL RIGHT
AH, SHE CONFESSED
WHAT?
I really didn't
have any thing I wanted to snatch from Haru
I really am not being polite
REALLY?
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING
IS THAT OKAY?

until I met her.

AKI!
HARU AND EMIRU-CHAN
KISS.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT...?
He heard us...
HARU,
DO YOU LIKE EMIRU-CHAN?

SFX STEP 4X
IS THAT
SO
...I WOULDN'T HAVE KISSED HER IF I DIDN'T LIKE HER.
...
AKI!

Aki misunderstood.
AKI, WAIT UP.
WAIT A MOMENT.
UM, YOU'RE MISTAKEN...
I'M NOT GOING OUT WITH HARU...
...MM.
...I
I

THE ONE I LIKE IS AKI.

"A girl who is important to you."
"You do have one, right?"
"You must also find happiness."
I ALSO
LIKE EMIRU-CHAN VERY MUCH.
BUT SORRY,

I CAN'T GO OUT WITH YOU.
I'M REALLY SORRY...

So quiet..
I'M DONE
AH I'LL DO THE WASHING
IT'S OKAY
I'LL WASH
Because I can't cook
EMIRU-CHAN
WH-WHAT?

DO YOU KNOW WHERE?
EH,
WHAT'S THE MATTER
TOMORROW AFTER SCHOOL
GO TO THE OVERPASS AT THE BACK FOR A MOMENT
CLENCH
WE'LL TALK THEN
I'LL CONTACT YOU TOMORROW

EMIRU-CHAN!
It sould be around here..

He wants to show me this?
IS THIS HARU'S CAR?
AH.
EH, A CAR?
IT'S SO CUTE, SO ROUND
This is a Porsche...
She probably doesn't know
IT'S MY PARENTS'
GET IN.
EH.
...
I WON'T DO ANYTHING!

THOUGH YOU MIGHT NOT TRUST ME ANYMORE...
I UNDER-STAND.
I DON'T PLAN TO DO THOSE ONE-SIDED THINGS LIKE LAST TIME AGAIN.

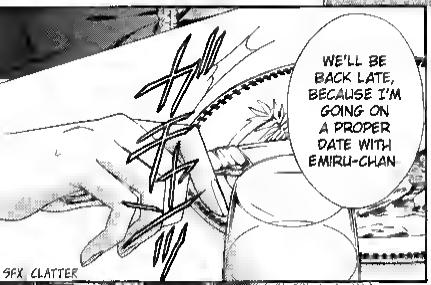
BECAUSE I DON'T USU-ALLY NEED A CAR, SO I HAVEN'T BEEN DRIV-ING
I DO HAVE A LICENSE
SO HARU KNOWS HOW TO DRIVE

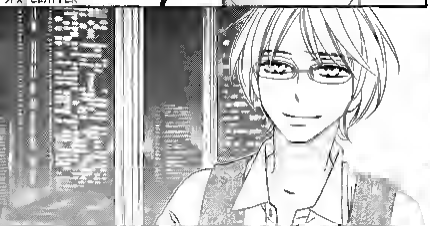
Can Aki too..?
Drive.
Aki just came into mind..
AKI DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO
EH!
Did I say it out?!
BECAUSE I KNOW HOW,
SO THAT GUY DOESN'T PLAN ON GETTING A LICENSE
THAT ABOUT HIM
BETTER START CHANGING....

Haru...?
AH, BY THE WAY,
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WELCOME!
HELP HER CHANGE INTO SOMETHING
Understood
EH!
AH, AREN'T YOU LOOKING GOOD
HARU ?!
Kya SO cute
ENJOY DRESS-ING UP
DO YOU NEED MAKE-UP? PROBABLY NOT
UM ER ..
SORRY I DIDN'T BRING MUCH CASH WITH ME TODAY
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT?

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A GIFT FROM ME
AND PLEASE ACCEPT THESE, MY PRINCESS
ばらっ
SFX ROSES
E-H?
E-H?
IT'S STILL A BIT EARLY, BUT LET'S GO HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT.
What is going on...?
TCH
I SHOULDN'T HAVE DRIVEN. I CAN'T DRINK ALCOHOL NOW
Besides that Haru you're still under-age.

HOW'S THE FOOD?
AH
VERY DELICIOUS


WE'LL BE BACK LATE, BECAUSE I'M GOING ON A PROPER DATE WITH EMIRU-CHAN
SFX CLATTER



Haru.
Just what is he thinking..?

BUT... UM,
AKI IS PROBABLY WORRIED WHY WE'RE NOT HOME BY NOW...
IT'S FINE. I TOLD HIM ALREADY.

...WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
24
BUT AKI,
MIGHT NOT RETURN YOUR FEELINGS
I KNOW EMIRU-CHAN LIKES AKI.
PUTS DOWN
EMIRU-CHAN
CAN YOU ACCEPT THIS?

THAT WAS...
I CAME TO LIKE SOME-ONE...
THE FIRST TIME
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ME NOW,
BUT I HOPE YOU WILL THINK ABOUT US.
25
HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO MAKE THEM GO AWAY...
AND I
DOESN'T MEAN MY FEELINGS WILL DISAP-PEAR
JUST BECAUSE HE WON'T RETURN MY FEELINGS

I'M SORRY...
I WILL MOVE OUT
AND FIND A HOUSE FOR MYSELF.
I UNDER-STAND.
BUT
I WANT TO CHANGE THE ATMOSPHERE A LITTLE
WHEN THE THREE OF US ARE TO-GETHER
T-THAT
IF IT WERE MY EX-GIRLFRIENDS THEY WOULD'VE BEEN VERY HAPPY. BUT IT SEEMS EVEN WITH THE GOLDEN DATE PLAN,
BUT I SOMEHOW ALREADY KNEW IT WOULDN'T WORK OUT.
I STILL CAN'T MAKE YOUR HEART WAVER.

THANK YOU
EH... BUT...
ANYWAY, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS
TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT IT IS FIRST
ただのブローチ
TEXT ONLY A BROOCH
HOW COULD I HAVE BOUGHT SUCH EXPENSIVE JEWELRY KNOWING IT'LL JUST BECOME A WASTE BY GIVING IT YOU
I may sound arrogant but it's actually really sad
27

MM...
JII-SAN WILL SCOLD ME IF I DO IT HALF-HEARTEDLY
AT LEAST SOMEWHERE CLOSE
I'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR A HOUSE

Aki,
"I can't go out with you."
likes Haru more than me.
That's understandable.
Even when I'm not beside him,
If I'm permitted to like Aki in secret,
Aki and Haru can still get along nicely.

that
is already more
than enough...
UNCLE ANOTHER CUP OF COFFEE
HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING TO STAY HERE?
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE A SALARY MAN WHO DOESN'T WANT TO GO HOME?
AH RIGHT, HOW'S THAT PRETTY GIRL?
She hasn't been stopping by lately
IS SHE CALLED EMIRU-CHAN?
HA!
WERE YOU DUMPED?
IT'S INTERESTING SO TELL ME ABOUT IT
HEY SAY SOMETHING.
IT'S BORING

WHATEVER
JUST CRY, CRY YOUNG MAN
I'M BACK...
WHAT'S THIS...
TAKES OUT
1DK
DK

わたしの近況
桜小路かのこ
久しぶりに家族から荷物が届いてしまった。実家はデブ母ぞろえ。おかゆと作って食べてると、病人ばっかりで悲しくなるらいは元気です。
わたしの近況
桜小路かのこ先生

SFX TURNS
...
SFX STEP SX

AH, MUM.
WHAT?
...HUH!?
I'll just let him mis-understand.

Compared to the usual
Somehow it feels depressing in here!
OUR PARENTS TOLD US
I'M BACK LATE
TO CLOSE DOWN THE SHOP AND RETURN TO THE MAIN HOUSE
EH
SEEMS LIKE THEY FOUND OUT WE'RE CLOSING THE SHOP BECAUSE THERE'S NO ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE
SAYING WE'RE NOT YOUNG ANYMORE
AND IT'S WEIRD TO STAY AWAY FROM HOME WITH NOTHING TO DO
WE'LL HAVE TO LOOK FOR A NEW PLACE FOR YOU EMIRU-CHAN
Somewhere close to the main house
AH
GLANCE

Aki, he...
hasn't said anything after knowing that I'm moving out.
Although... I haven't been expecting much, but...
I WILL STAY AT THIS HOUSE.
They used to get along so well..
If I didn't have come here,
they wouldn't have become like this.
AKI!
NO NEED TO TALK I'M STAYING
THERE'S ONLY 3 OUR PARENTS WILL AGREE TO TAKE THEM IN
THE CATS ARE STILL HERE
HUH? WHAT

So I thought if I moved out,
they'll return to how they were before..
IF
IF YOUR SHOP CAN RE-OPEN,
HARU WON'T NEED TO GO BACK TOO RIGHT?
THE CLUES FOR THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE THAT JII-CHAN LEFT BEHIND,
I'LL GO LOOK FOR THEM...!
I don't want them to part!
TO BE CONTINUED
THE FUTURE OF THE STORE DEPENDS ON EMIRU-CHAN ..?!

Last Notes - Chapter 11

by Sakurakouji Kanoko

Scanner: Laurhanna
Translator: Suiliz
Proofreader: Yuu
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Typesetter: Whumsypanda
Qcer: hemony

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桜小路かのこ

最新FC「ラストノーツ」大好評発売中!!!

もう戻れない
Can Aki and Haru return to how they were?!
アキとハルには

香りが導く
一気に
The love story of fragrance has come to its climax
クライマックスへ

chapter 12

ラストノーツ

Une femme sans parfum est une femme sans avenir

I'M NOT SURE.
SHE'S NOT OUT WITH HER FRIENDS OR SOMETHING?
Since it's Saturday.
I CALLED HER, BUT IT WON'T GET THROUGH.
IT SAYS THE PHONE IS OUT OF THE SERVICE RANGE I'M A BIT WORRIED
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THIS MORNING
DO YOU KNOW WHERE EMIRU-CHAN WENT?
HARU

THE HITOUKOUDOU BRANCH STORE SELLS "ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE" THAT SUMMONS DECEASED PEOPLE WHEN LIT. AT THE STORE IS WHERE THE SHOPKEEPERS, AKI AND HARU, AND THE HOMELESS GIRL EMIRU-CHAN, ALL LIVE. EMIRU-CHAN LIKES AKI, BUT IS TROUBLED BY HARU'S KISS. AKI FOUND OUT ABOUT THE KISS AND TO CLEAR THE MISUNDERSTANDING, EMIRU-CHAN CONFESSED TO AKI. "I LIKE YOU. BUT I CAN'T GO OUT WITH YOU." WAS HOW AKI REJECTED EMIRU-CHAN.
AT THE SAME TIME, AKI RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM THEIR PARENTS TELLING THEM TO CLOSE DOWN THE STORE, SINCE THERE AREN'T ANY MORE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE. EMIRU-CHAN COULDN'T STAND WATCHING AKI AND HARU ARGUE AND SAID SHE'D GO LOOK FOR ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE BY HERSELF.

RECAP

CHARACTERS

MIHIRO - AKI'S OLD FRIEND WHO GREW UP IN THE ORPHANAGE.

HITOU HARUOMI "HARU" - 1ST YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT. THE OTHER SHOPKEEPER OF HITOUKOUDOU BRANCH STORE. LOVES MONEY.

HITOU CHIAKI "AKI" - 3RD YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT (REPEATER). A SHOPKEEPER OF HITOUKOUDOU BRANCH STORE. HAS A SENSITIVE NOSE.

GOSHIMA EMIRU - 1ST YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT. A BEAUTY WHO LIVES WITH AKI AND HARU. HAS NO HOME.

EMIRU-CHAN SAID SHE'D FIND IT,
THE CLUB JII-S IN LEFT BEHIND ABOUT ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE.
SHE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR IT EVERYWHERE LATELY.
SHE LOOKED RATHER TIRED THIS MORNING...
BEEP
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED...
...
BUT WEREN'T WE THE REASON SHE BECAME LIKE THIS
AH, SHE'S BACK.

SFX OPEN
バタン
I'M BACK...
EMIRU-CHAN, COULD IT BE THAT YOU WENT BACK TO THAT VIL-LAGE?
EH
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
Psycho?!
...
Because you were out of the service range.
NO WAY
YES, BUT
ISN'T YOUR HOME
JUST RAW LAND NOW?
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE BURIED UNDER A TREE OR THAT SOMEONE'S
She went there alone...
TAKING CARE OF IT
SFX WAVER

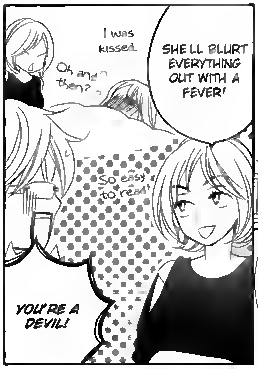
EMIRU-CHAN!
AKI...

SORRY.
I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING
YOU'RE BURNING UP.
I THINK IT'S ONLY A FLU...
YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT?
UM
You actually went back to the village alone,
so that Haru and I could continue the business here.
WHAT?
PLEASE DON'T MIND ME.
Look at what you did to yourself..!

Aki's so kind to me.
But I misunderstood
I've always caused you trouble
Her hand feels hot..

I didn't accept your confession.
The reason why I want to be kind to you
is because I'm a coward..
NEXT STOP

SFX: SHOCKED
SFX: OPEN
I'M BACK
YOU'RE BACK EARLY
YOU SKIPPED CLASS?
Mihiro
CLASS WAS CANCELED
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I HAD A DATE WITH EMIRU-CHAN
BUT SHE GOT SICK SO I CAME TO VISIT
She's sleeping now
I SEE
NICE TIMING
ARE YOU FREE?
I HEARD
YOU LAID A FINGER ON EMIRU-CHAN


I was kissed.
Oh, and then?
SHE'LL BLURT EVERYTHING OUT WITH A FEVER!
So easy to read
YOU'RE A DEVIL!

EMIRU-CHAN
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?
THAT CHILD CAN'T KEEP SECRETS.

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS
IS THAT SO?
IF YOU REALLY DO LIKE EMIRU-CHAN THEN DON'T SAY ANYTHING

HUH !?
IT'S TRUE THAT I'M ATTRACTED TO HER,
BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY THING
I'M NOT REALLY SURE
YOU DO KNOW AKI'S CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS, RIGHT?
IT'S SUCH A VAGUE FEELING.
I KNOW
IS ALL THANKS TO YOU!
HE BELIEVES EVERYTHING HE OWNS NOW

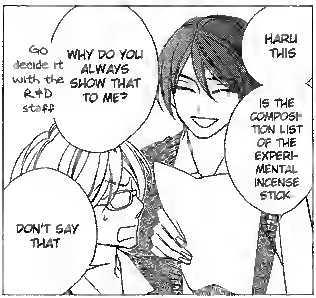
HE HAS EVERYTHING HE NEEDS,
BUT I
BUT ALL OF IT WAS EARNED BY HIMSELF!
DON'T THINK THAT WAY
EH!?

AKI, WHO WAS STILL A KID,
WITH HIS EXTRAORDINARY SENSE OF SMELL, HAD STARTED ADJUSTING OUR INCENSE STICKS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHEN AKI FIRST CAME,
OUR FAMILY WAS ONLY A SMALL SHOP SELLING INCENSE STICKS

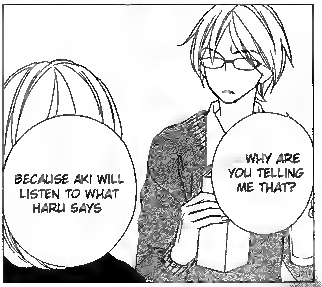
AND THE FINISHED PRODUCT BECAME
NITOUKOUDOU COMPANY'S BEST-SELLING ITEM
YOU'RE KIDDING...!
Thoroughly trained by Goshima's "Ji" san.
Goshima taught him a lot about incense sticks
and that was how Aki's talent was found.
WELL DONE, AKI!
NO WAY.
HOW COULD HE HAVE KNOWN?
...his strong sense of smell...
HARU, DID YOU KNOW BEFORE-HAND?

...AKI.
Let's go ask other people.
BUT...
NO CATS IN THIS HOUSE!
I GET IT
WHAT WAS THAT?

IS THAT SO?
HARU MADE A GOOD CHOICE!


Go decide it with the R&D staff
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS SHOW THAT TO ME?
HARU THIS
IS THE COMPOSITION LIST OF THE EXPERIMENTAL INCENSE STICK
DON'T SAY THAT

STRANGE SMELLS AGAIN?
HOLD ON

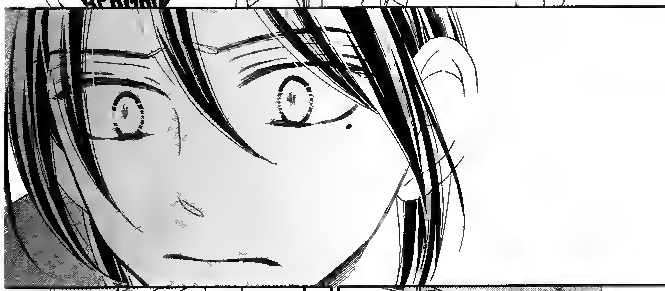
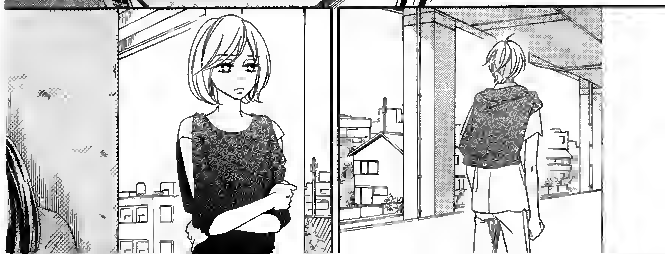

BECAUSE AKI WILL LISTEN TO WHAT HARU SAYS
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT?

HARU
THANK YOU

わたしの近況
桜小路かのこ
十人十色のおめしあがりかたを見てくるからとか
ISBN978-4-8001
小学館ベツコミ編集部
桜小路かのこ先生

And so I thought,
"Will they fall into darkness together?"
That's why
I stretched out my arm unknowingly.
AKI
WAS ABLE TO LIVE ALONE A LONG TIME AGO,
BUT HE PRETENDED LIKE HE DIDN'T REALIZE IT,
AND I JUST LET HIM DO SO.

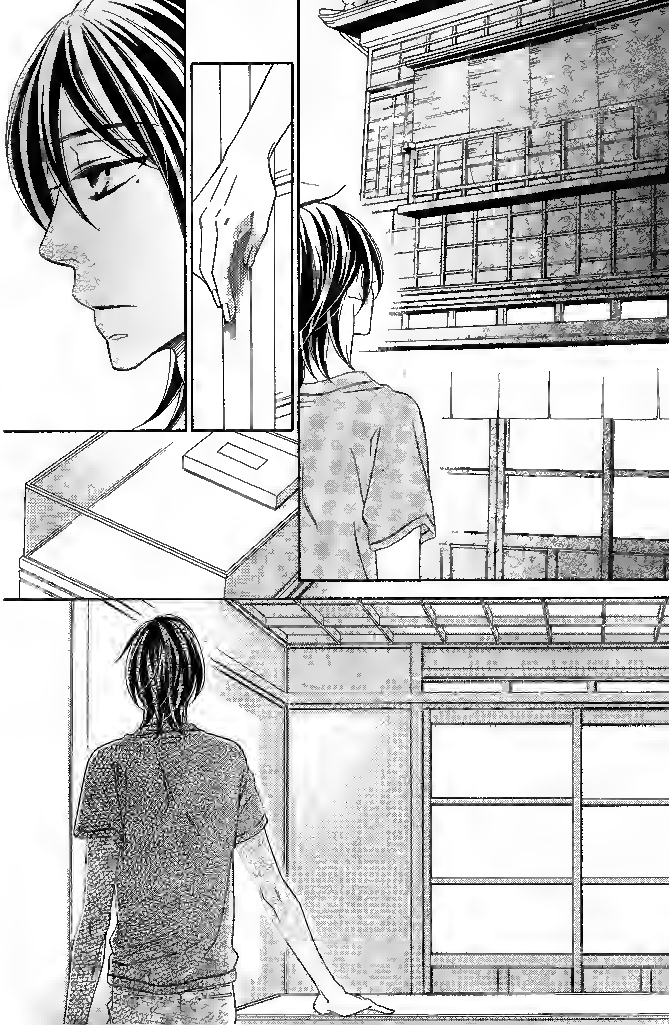
AKI
REALLY LIKES YOU...
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO FROM NOW ON?
I THINK IT HAS A NICE TIMING WITH EMIRU-CHAN'S SITUATION.

IT'S ABOUT TIME
AKI AND I BECOME INDEPENDENT.



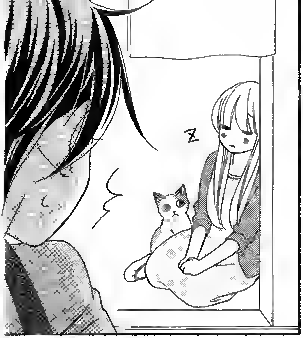
SFX: SURPRISED
UWAH, AKI!
WH-
WHY ARE YOU HERE
Scared me...
I FOLLOWED YOU GUYS
I WAS WORRIED SEEING YOU TWO TOGETHER...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO FIGHT BESIDE THE RIVER...
Mikiro did that in the past
That was ages ago...
SO YOU HEARD?

SORT OF.
IS IT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO BECOME INDEPENDENT TOO?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN CONTACTING ME MUCH LATELY
WHAT?
I WAS SO...
IF YOU KEEP RELYING ON OTHERS LIKE THIS,
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE YOU TREASURE.

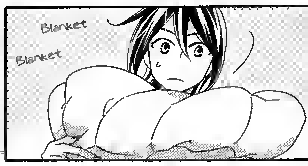
SUPPORT THE PEOPLE I TREASURE...
ABERCROMBIE & Fitch
EST. 1892
NEW YORK

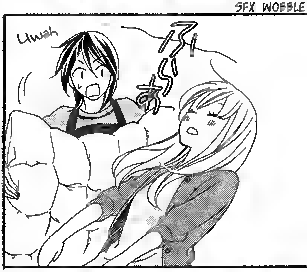


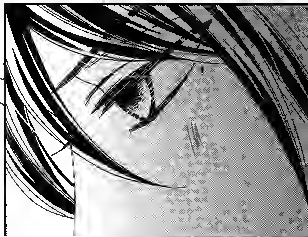
AKI...?
SFX: PEEL
OUCH!
I'LL MAKE SURE IT TASTES GOOD SO YOU GO AND REST
SMALL BLEED
WAH, IT'S LEAK-ING.
SFX: CHOP
SFX: CLATTER
SFX: CLANK
SFX: WORRIED ZX
You still have a fever
YOU CAN'T BE UP EMIRU-CHAN GO LIE DOWN
BUT DINNER
I'LL COOK TODAY
SFX: THICK
BUT YOU JUST ADDED INSTANT CURRY POWDER INTO CUP NOODLES BEFORE
I'LL COOK TODAY!
TEXT: AKI YOU BRAT!
23



Shoujo Sense







YOU MADE THIS, AKI?
IT'S NOT TAKE-AWAY FOOD PLACED ON A PLATE, IS IT?
I MADE THEM!
THESE ARE THE PROOF!
WOUND
HOW COULD YOU LET A SICK PERSON EAT SOMETHING THIS OILY
I MADE CONGEE ESPECIALLY FOR EMIRI-CHAN
EVEN I CAN DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS
TRY IT.

IT
EMIRU-CHAN, YOUR TASTE BUDS HAVE GONE WEIRD.
IT'S DELI-CIOUS.
Really
THIS IS AT MOST "EDIBLE".
HARU, YOU'RE COMPAR-ING IT TO YOURS.

HM.
EDIBLE

..I GUESS
I'M SUR-PRISED.
RIGHT?
I'M OKAY BY MYSELF.

—IS THAT SO
HARU,
LET'S CLOSE THE STORE.
EH...
SORRY, EMIRU-CHAN,
BUT THE STORE'S CLOSING.
IS HARU GOING BACK TO THE OLD HOUSE?

AKI...
I STILL WANT TO STAY HERE
I'LL LIVE HERE ALONE
AND WILL GO TO SCHOOL PROPERLY.
THEN I'LL RETURN TO THE HOUSE
ABERGROMBIE & Fitch
NOT BAD?
...I UNDERSTAND
ABERGROMBIE & Fitch

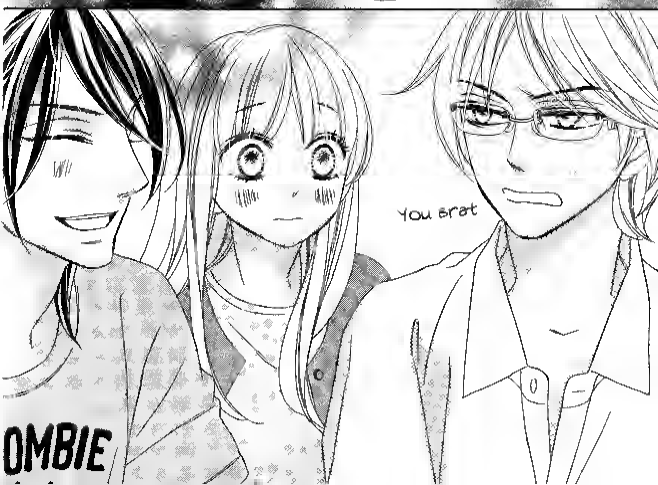
I'M SORRY, EMIRU-CHAN,
BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF US ARGUING THAT WE'RE MAKING THIS DECISION.

...MM
When he shows that face to me,
I won't be able to say anything.

SFX TURN ON
YOU STILL CAN'T LET GO, HARU!
LET'S JUST KEEP IT FOR NOW
RIGHT. AND THIS IS OUR LAST ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE.
Chuck!
AHHH!
LET'S USE THIS TIME TO BURN IT ALL!
SFX SWITCH ON
DON'T TURN ON THE FAN!
WHY NOT?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT!?
EVEN IF YOU'RE BURNING IT, YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE THE STOVE.
MOM...?
CHAPPI!
KAZUYO ?

and spread
like a wave.
A little
shock
turned into
laughter

JUST MY IMAGINATION?
... THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A MOMENT,
IT WAS A NICE DREAM...


You brat
OMBIE

That night,
the images the neighbors of Nitoukoudou Branch Store witnessed
were so vague
that everyone stayed silent and kept it in their hearts.
AT THE TIME THE THREE OF THEM SPENT TOGETHER WILL SOON BECOME PART OF THE PAST— NEXT, THE LAST CHAPTER OF THEIR FATE
TO BE CONTINUED...

Last Notes - Chapter 12

by Sakurakouji Kanoko

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ラストノーツ

LAST NOTES

FINALE

The story of the mysterious shop
Recall of the nostalgic aroma.
Hoping to re-encounter that person.
Until that day comes...
A TOUCHING FINALE
FC "LAST NOTE" VOLUME 3 ON SALE BY 25TH JULY (FRIDAY)!
SAKURAKOUJI KANOKO

THE NITOUKOUBOU BRANCH STORE SELLS "ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE" THAT WILL SUMMON DECEASED PEOPLE WHEN LIT. AT THE STORE IS WHERE THE SHOPKEEPERS, AKI, HARU, AND THE HOMELESS GIRL, ENMU-CHAN, LIVE.
"I LIKE YOU, BUT I CANNOT GO OUT WITH YOU". ENMU-CHAN HAD CONFESSED BUT WAS REJECTED BY AKI.
ON THE OTHER HAND, AKI THOUGHT HARU ALSO LIKED ENMU-CHAN AND SO HAD DECIDED TO LEAVE.
TO CHANGE THE SITUATION, THE TWO OF THEM, WHO DEPENDED ON EACH OTHER SINCE THEY WERE YOUNG, DECIDED TO SEPARATE.
HARU RETURNED TO HIS OLD HOUSE, WHILE AKI CONTINUED TO LIVE AT THE SHOP BY HIMSELF.
AS THE CASE OF THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE IS NOW SETTLED, THE THREE OF THEM BEGAN TO WALK DOWN DIFFERENT PATHS. HOW WILL THEIR RELATIONSHIPS DEVELOP...?!

RECAP

CHARACTERS

SUSUKINA TSUZU - ENMU-CHAN'S GRANDPA, HE KNOWS THE SECRET OF THE ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE, BUT PASSED AWAY IN AN ACCIDENT.

NITOU HARU - ONE "HARU" - 1ST YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENT. THE OTHER SHOPKEEPER OF NITOUKOUBOU BRANCH STORE. LOVES MONEY

NITOU AKI - "AKI" - 3RD YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT (REPEATER). NITOUKOUBOU BRANCH STORE'S SHOPKEEPER. HAS A SENSITIVE NOSE

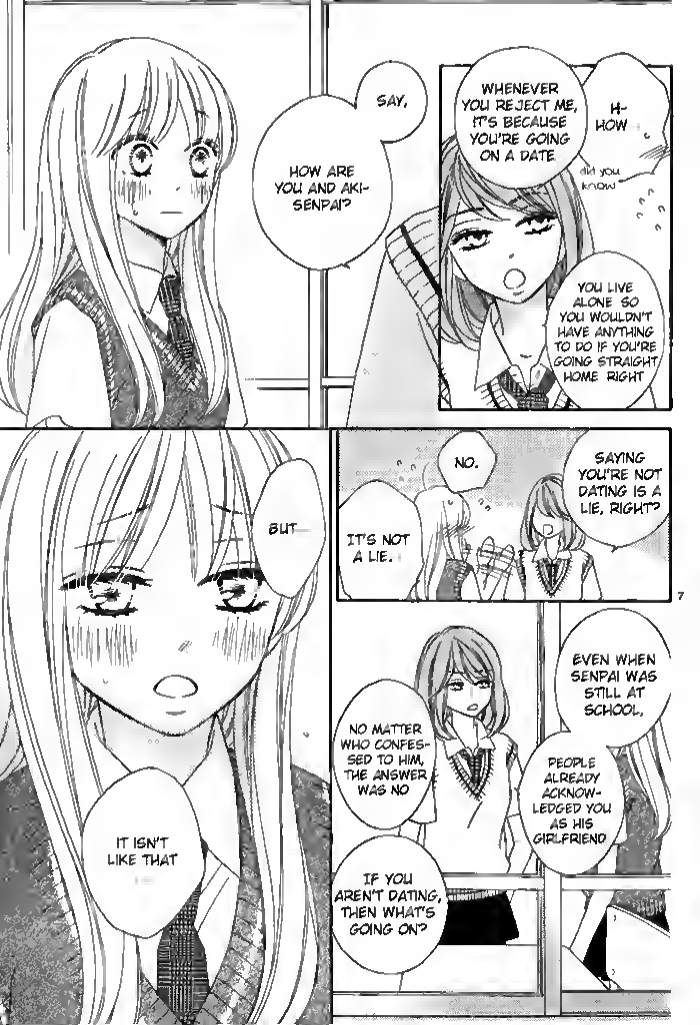
SUSUKINA ENMU - 1ST YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT. A BEAUTY WHO LIVES WITH AKI AND HARU. HOMELESS.

NOTICE OF CLOSURE
DUE TO –
THE SHOP WILL BE
SUSPENDING ITS BUSINESS
THANK YOU.
SUSPENDING ITS BUSINESS...?!
SHUDDUP
YEAH
AKI!
YOU'RE STILL ASLEEP AT THIS HOUR?

I'M TAKING A DAY OFF TODAY.
I TOOK THE LAST TRAIN BACK.
TOGAWA-SAN, WHO WENT BACK WITH YOU, IS AT THE COMPANY ALREADY.
HARU
REALLY?
THAT PERSON'S ALREADY NEAR 50
IF YOU'RE LIKE THIS, THE GUYS AT THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT WILL SLACK OFF.
YOU'LL BE REPLACING TOGAWA-SAN AS THE CHIEF THERE ONE DAY.
I JUST ENTERED THE COMPANY LAST APRIL. I'M STILL A NEWBIE.

THANKS TO YOUR WORK, IT'S FINALLY BEEN FINALIZED.
IF YOU KNOW I WORKED HARD, THEN LET ME SLEEP...
WHATEVER.
BUT THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE THINKS.
You're awake?
I HEARD FROM TOGAWA-SAN.
THE PROPOSAL FOR THE NEW PRODUCT HAS BEEN APPROVED.
5
If you're awake then feed me.
It has been 1 year
since we closed the shop.
After graduation, Aki-san
joined the research department at Nitoukoudou's main company.
I'll go prepare it.
Food
Food
AHH, I'M TOTALLY AWAKE NOW...

No
He's living alone at the branch store.
But he seems to meet up with Haru-san often.
I want to drink that
And I..
UM, DO YOU WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE AFTER SCHOOL?
SORRY, TODAY I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO
EH- WHAT, ARE YOU GOING ON A DATE WITH AKI-SENPAI?
EH.


SAY,
HOW ARE YOU AND AKI-SENPAI?
WHENEVER YOU REJECT ME, IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING ON A DATE
H-HOW did you know
YOU LIVE ALONE SO YOU WOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO IF YOU'RE GOING STRAIGHT HOME RIGHT
SAYING YOU'RE NOT DATING IS A LIE, RIGHT?
NO.
IT'S NOT A LIE.
BUT
IT ISN'T LIKE THAT
EVEN WHEN SENPAI WAS STILL AT SCHOOL,
PEOPLE ALREADY ACKNOWLEDGED YOU AS HIS GIRLFRIEND
NO MATTER WHO CONFESSED TO HIM, THE ANSWER WAS NO
IF YOU AREN'T DATING, THEN WHAT'S GOING ON?

SINCE WINTER, AKI-SAN STARTED WORKING AT THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.
HE'S BEEN VERY BUSY LATELY TODAY WE CAN FINALLY MEET UP...
WE'RE NOT DATING...
BESIDES,
IF THAT'S NOT DATING, THEN WHAT IS IT?
Even when there's only the two of us,
Aki-san wouldn't bring that up.
So I won't talk about it either.
Even Aki-san and I
don't mind how our relationship will develop...
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP THAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP?

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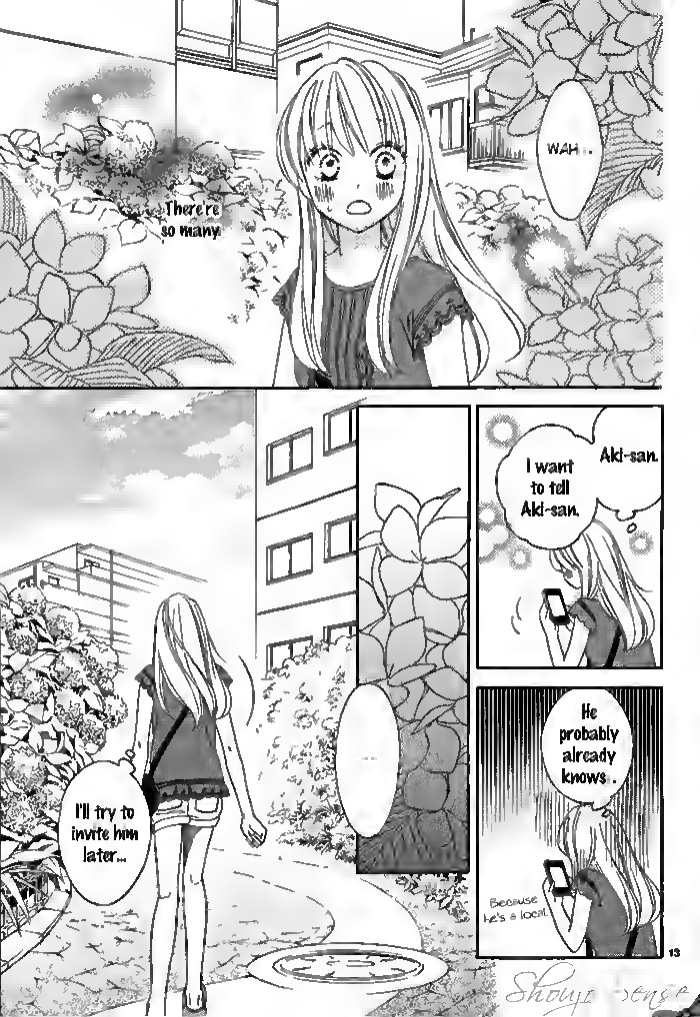
PACK
READY TO GO
BIG IDIOT!
Ah.
AKI-SAN
OK!
I really haven't seen Aki-san for a while.
I forgot to tell Aki-san that I need to go back early ...
Come to my house
then let's have dinner
Is
is this fine..?

THE LADY OVER THERE
IF YOU'RE FREE, YOU SHOULD WALK DOWN THAT ROAD
IT'S REALLY PRETTY NOW
There?

HYDRAN-
GEAS!



Shoujo Sense

AH
AH!
EH

ラストノーツ

BECAUSE YOU MOVED AWAY BEFORE THEY BLOOMED LAST YEAR.
THAT'S NOT IT.
IT'S BECAUSE
JUST THEN I WAS THINKING I REALLY WANTED TO SEE AKI-SAN

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THIS WHOLE YEAR,
I HAVE BEEN THINKING
scratch
YESTER-DAY,
EH
WAS LAUNCHED.
THE NEW INCENSE THAT I TOOK PART IN DEVE-LOPING AFTER I ENTERED THE RESEARCH DE-PARTMENT,
WHAT IT MEANT TO BE INDE-PENDENT
MM—
CO-
CONGRATU-LATIONS!

I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN USED TO DOING CHORES,
AND WAS OFTEN SCOLDED BY HARU
BUT,
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I SAY IT.
I REALLY WANT TO SAY IT...
?
SAY WHAT...?
AH, SORRY, THE PREFACE TOOK TOO LONG!
I'M SO SORRY!
EMIRU-CHAN,

PLEASE LIVE WITH ME
FROM NOW ON,

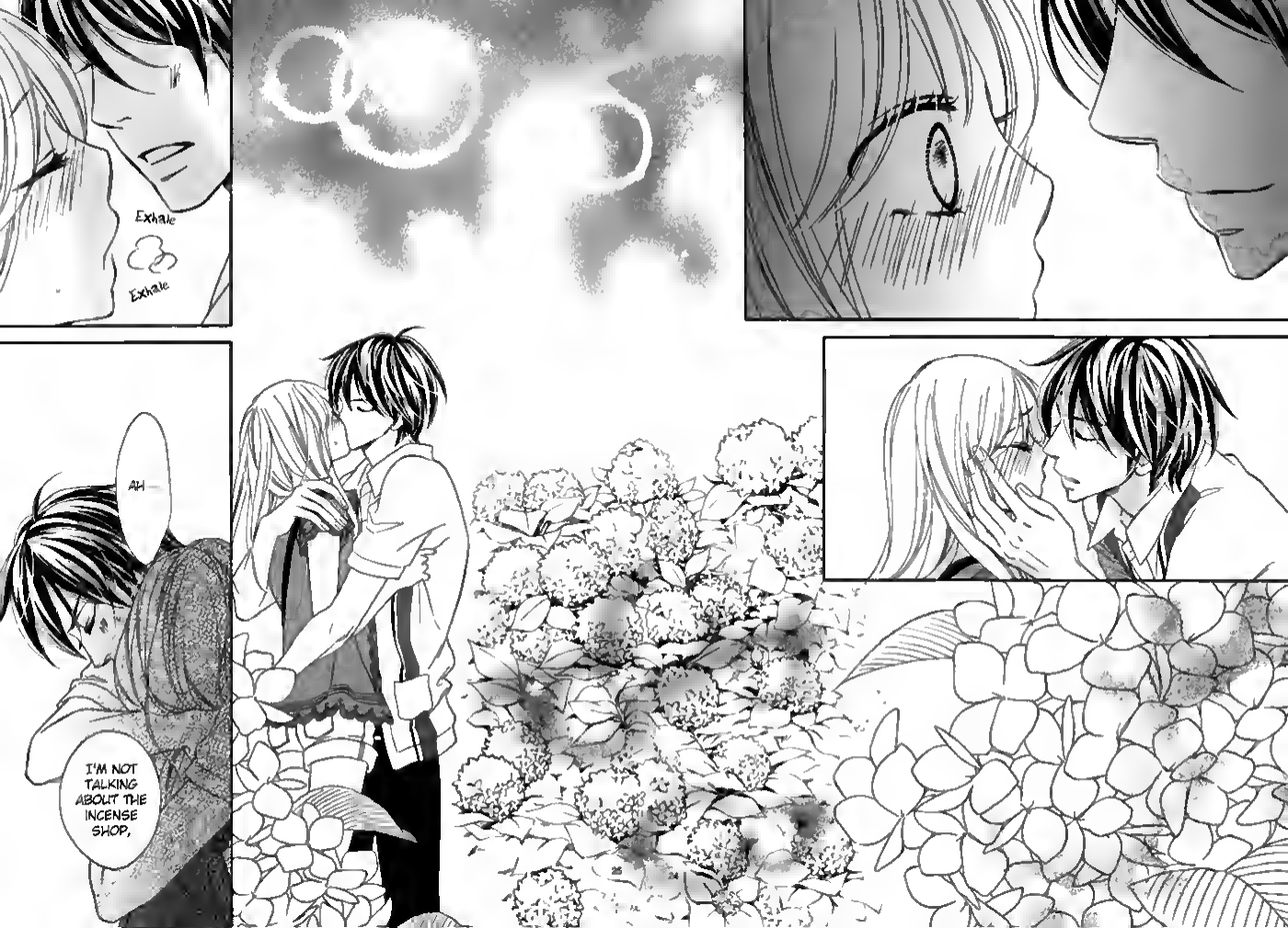
EH!
OK
AH,
ALL RIGHT
SOONER OR LATER
AH...
UM
THAT,
DO YOU REALLY UNDER-"STAND?
LIVING TOGETHER MEANS THAT...

MY MOUTH SLIPPED
Because of the atmosphere I got carried away
AH
I ALREADY BOUGHT A RING

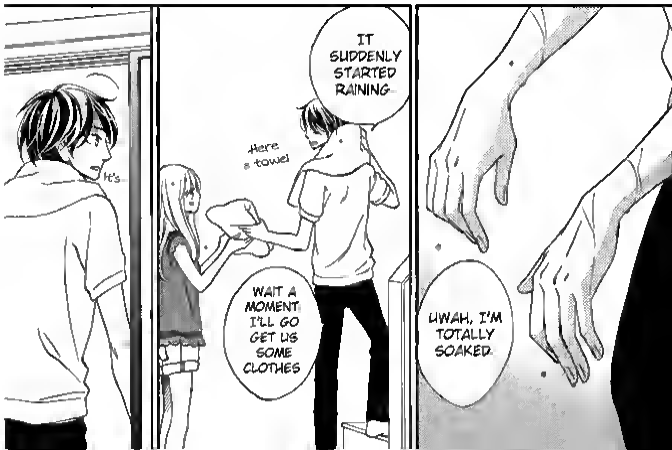
SORRY! LET'S REDO IT.
PLEASE LET ME SAY IT ONCE MORE...
NO MATTER HOW IT WILL BE
IF I CAN BE WITH AKI...
THAT'S NO GOOD...
EH...

BECAUSE, I WANT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO BECOME ONE THAT CAN DO THIS

LIKE
LIKE I JUST SAID
AKI...
AKI-SAN
WITH REGARDS TO WHAT I JUST SAID,
WILL YOU ANSWER ME ONE MORE TIME?
AH...
THE "AH, ALL RIGHT"?
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE BRUSHING ME OFF
LIM,
THEN
KISS


Exhale
Exhale
AH—
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THE INCENSE SHOP,

BUT THE SAYING, "I'M SO HAPPY, IT'S LIKE I'M IN HEAVEN" IS PROBABLY WHAT THIS FEELING IS ABOUT


It's
Here's a towel
IT SUDDENLY STARTED RAINING
WAIT A MOMENT. I'LL GO GET US SOME CLOTHES
UWAH, I'M TOTALLY SOAKED

Aren't you just putting everything into paper bags...?
THIS...
THIS ALSO COUNTS AS "TIDIED UP"
UWAH!
UGH, IT'S COLD
MEOW
ACHOO
27

AH...
DID YOU COME OUT FROM THE WARDROBE?
Come.
Rub me.
Prance
AH, LONG TIME NO SEE, KA-WABUCHI

AKI-SAN,
I was thinking where it went when I moved.
I didn't know it was here.
THIS IS MINE...
more.
PUT
THIS ROBE ON.
SFX PUTS ON
SORRY, SORRY.
NO, I SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
I'll have it dry cleaned
HM?
IT HAS BECOME THE CAT'S BED NOW
Scratch Scratch
MM.
JII-CHAN GAVE IT TO ME.
EH, THIS IS EMIRU-CHAN'S?
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SOMETHING THAT IMPORTANT...
I SEE

THERE WAS A REALLY NICE SMELL JUST THEN
WHAT IS IT?
....
THERE'S SOME-THING
.. CAN I TAKE OUT THE THREADS?
IT'S A FRAGRANT WOOD.
FRAGRANT WOOD?!
JII-SAN PROBABLY SEWED IT IN THERE,
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE'S A FRAGRANT WOOD IN THERE...
BUT I SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULD NOTICE SUCH A WEAK FRAGRANCE
AH, THERE'S SOME-THING
WRITTEN ON IT

N21.0973
E106.64
SECRET CODE?

THAT'S PROBABLY THE POINT WHERE THE TWO OVERLAP!
E IS LONGITUDE
N IS LATITUDE,

DON'T CALL ME OUT FOR SUCH A SMALL THING!
It's nothing complicated
Clap Clap Clap Clap
GENIUS!
Instant kill
YOU'RE AMAZING HARU.

THESE NUMBERS THEY'RE NOT DOMESTIC
THEY'RE FROM VIETNAM
HOW
VIETNAM ?
UM,
THE THIRD LINE
090 IS A PHONE NUMBER?
I SEE
LET'S GO THERE!
EH!
HARU, DO YOU KNOW
THAT WE'RE GOING ON A DATE LATER?
WHO CARES!
This is like a treasure hunt.

The numbers point to a mountain in Vietnam.
If we use the positioning system to search for the mobile phone of that number...
There.
SOMETHING IS PROBABLY BURIED WITH THE MOBILE PHONE
AH,
FOUND IT!
IS IT REALLY FRAGRANT WOOD?
NO, WAIT
THIS SMELL
ISN'T IT ANTI-SPIRIT INCENSE...!
TRIPPED→
NO, THIS IS GOOD
JII-CHAN SHOULD'VE BURIED THE FRAGRANT WOOD SOMEWHERE EASIER TO FIND
THE PLACE WHERE THE TREE GROWS
JII-SAN TOLD US THE PLACE TO THE TREASURE.

Hidden within my clothes, a fragrant wood that only Aki-san could notice.
Haru-san, who solved the code.
We wouldn't have found the place if the three of us weren't together.
What jii-chan brought us..
Our future.

When the fragrant wood is lighted up,

the deceased ones will appear in the mist

Dark Dream
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